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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00315 090704Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 /101 W
----------027829 092150Z /62
R 090435Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9089
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUHQHQACINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0315

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PDIP PEPR UR LA EG AG
SUBJECT: SOVIETS SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE

REF: 77 VIENTIANE 0109 NOTAL

1. A THIRD WORLD AMBASSADOR WITH REASON TO BE KOW-
LEDGABLE ON THE SUBJECT TOLD US MARCH 8 THAT THE SOVIETS
WERE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE LPDR TO ESTABLISH AN
EMBASSY IN ALGIERS. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET PLAN,
ALGERIA WOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN
VIENTIANE. (THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN HANOI CURRENTLY
IS ACCREDITED IN VIENTIANE.)

2. THE SOURCE FOR THIS REPORT SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT
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THE LAO HAD REFECTED THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE THEY DID NOT
HAVE THE MONEY TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN ALGIERS, BUT
THAT IF SOVIET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WERE OFFERED THE
LAO WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE
SOVIETS WERE ANXIOUS TO END A SITUATION IN WHICH THE

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EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IS THE SOLE ARAB NATION WITH A DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE. (THE PLO HAS A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, BUT HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE PRO-CHINESE SYMPATHIES.) HE ADDED THAT THE MOVE WOULD BE PART OF BROADER SOVIET STRATEGY AIMED AT DIVIDING THE ARAB WORLD.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN BEARDING BLOC DIPLOMATS AND IN PARTICULAR, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, HE OPENLY DESCRIBED HIS PERSONAL MISSION IN LAOS AS BEING TO "WARN THE LAO ABOUT THE SOVIETS." (REFTEL)

5. WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION THAT ANY MOVE TO EXCHANGE RESIDENT AMBASSADORS BETWEEN ALGIERS AND VIENTIANE IS IMMINENT. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAO AND ALGERIANS MIGHT DECIDE TO MEET THE COSTS OF EACH OTHER'S EMBASSY IN A RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT NOW FOLLOWED BY THE LAO AND KAMPUCHEANS.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Litigation History:
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